

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Friendship is a relationship between individuals or individual groups that have influenced which is describe the behavior of mutual cooperation to protect and respect each other. Graham Allan (1998) explain that true friendship can be seen through the action from someone to others which is the actions associated with socially and economic environment. Friendship describe a relation that involves social environtment including religion. Religion is a cultural symbol that talks about the meaning of human life and nature (Johnson 1988: 601). Frederick (1998: 167) clarifies that interreligious friendship implies combination from values and skills. It mean that interreligious friendship can increase in understanding of tradition foreign to us. For example when making friends with someone who has different religion, of course we will improve the understanding of other religion to ourselves. In interreligious friendship usually they feel happy and their difference will add to the color of their friendship.

In every life of human, especially teenagers, they must have a lot of friends. Humans generally cannot live alone. Humans will feel happy if they have a lot of friends. Therefore it called human as a social being, because it takes other people to interact. In daily life, sometimes a lot of issues that must be faced. Because of in dealing with environment, often meet people who are different, especially different religious. Because human beings are created different, start from ethnicity, religion, or race. One result of interaction between people is their friendship. In friendship certainly has some problems because of something, especially different beliefs. In the school or university, many people who have different beliefs. In this case it will surely happen friendship from different religious. Especially in schools abroad. Many of people can be friends with anyone. They can make a friend with different beliefs, culture, or

ethnic. They are happy with their friendship. For those who live, not much different from the interreligious friendship. They can do activities together, such as going together, eat together, vent about anything, and etc.

When we talk about interreligious friendship, this issue has been discussed in sociology science. The interreligious friendship described in *An Abundance of Katherines* novel. It tells about a story about someone who was broken heart because of his ex friends, and he has a best friend who is very kind. His friend invited him to a vacation so he can forget all things that hurt him. In the novel illustrated the many interaction between them and how close the friendship between them, although their different beliefs. One Moslem and one a half of Jewish. And they respect each other.

The interreligious friendship becomes the attention of the authors in the literary world, one of them is John Green. John Green is the author of teen fiction, vlogger, and producer from America. He has written six books, such as *Looking for Alaska*, *An Abundance of Katherines*, *Let It Snow: Three Holiday Romance*, *Paper Towns*, *Will Grayson*, *Will Grayson*, and *The Fault in Our Star*. John Green as an author has an idea to describe about interreligious friendship in her literary work, *An Abundance of Katherines* novel.

All of the literary work from John Green, one of them like *An Abundance of Katherines* novel is the novel which shows about interreligious friendship and about love. The novel tells about someone who feel very miserable because it was 19 times hurt by his girlfriend. And come his best friend invited him to go adventuring. Aimless, anywhere as long as he forget the sorrow his girlfriend. On their journey, they also meet with several people and one of them gave the work with high cost. And they both agreed. Their friendship shows so funny. But, they are responsible and it seen that they are protection to each other. Although they have different beliefs.

In the Kalman School, the child prodigy named Collin Singleton entered grade one easily because of his mother taught there. Only a year younger than his classmates, his father encouraged him to study hard. Collin social skills were never very good and not health. He was not easy to get

friends. He and his classmates could not enjoy the same activity. Even Collin get bullying from some his classmates until crying. It makes Collin feel no one like him, and the act is like that. Finally in grade three, he try to prove his sociology with dating with beautiful girl in Chicago. When the ninth grade, Collin attend calculus class with Hassan. But they never talk to each other. Because of Collin had surrendered to make a friend with people who are not named Katherine. He hates all students in Kalman. Because so far they also hate Collin. And the class ended, Hassan find Collin was eating nut bread, then Hassan asked him to speak, and then they are a friend. Although they have different beliefs. Collin is Jewish and Hasan is a young man of Lebanese descent. He is Moslem.

During in his life, the child prodigy Collin Singleton has been dating XIX people named Katherine. Unfortunately, on the day of graduation from high school, he was abandoned by Katherine XIX. He felt very hurt and depressed. He opted to take a dip, because of one philosophy in his life is to not do anything while standing if it can easily be done while lying down. He entered into the tub while the water is heat. The pain persist until ten o'clock when Hassan entered without knocking. Hassan shocked and get angry when look Collin desperate situation. Although Hassan was not particularly religious, but in playfulness he was trying to make Collin convert. Because Collin just need God more than people who hurt him. So Hassan tried to entertain him with invited him to adventuring for a few days. No destination, anywhere as long as Collin feel happy and can forget the sorrow of Katherines.

On the way, Collin and Hassan found a sign that there is a tomb of Archduke Ferdinand sector in the city is named Gutshot. Ferdinand is cause to the outbreak of world war I. Because of Collin was curious, and instead they are wandering aimlessly, then they both decided to go to that town. In Gutshot, they meet a girl named Lindsey. They also meet Hollis who is Lindsey's mother. Hollis turned out to know Collin and offer jobs to them with high cost. The jobs is to write a history of the town Gutshot through the stories of its inhabitants. Well rather than no destination, they both agreed to the task. While

they work, Collin, who is a genius and a child prodigy, he trying to make a mathematical equation that could predict the future of his romance. The goal is to reduce the amount of “the hurt” and may be give them some time to realize how the day they passed in happiness before the were hurted.

In the literary work, the work of novel that write by author have a responses from the readers. There are several advantages and disadvantages from the novel. According to some readers, *An Abundance of Katherines* is interesting and entertaining. Reading this novel makes the reader feel back to the days of high school. The novel include romance novel. John Green has a unique way to storytelling about love. In this novel, there are many mathematical theory and curves, even names of famous figures in the world are also displayed in the novel. So it could add knowledge to the reader. The story is simple and not a lot of conflict, but the elements of humor and intelligent dialogue makes the story of this novel interesting. There are many moral messages that could be taken if the reader pay attention. *An Abundance of Katherine* novel has been translated in Indonesian language.

At the beginning of the story, there are a variety of mathematical theory and curves that can make the reader very confused. In this novel, there are also foreign sentences that can make readers do not understand, like France language but no one explain what does it mean. And there are some foreign term that can make the reader confused. In the dialogue between Collin and Hassan, there are words that are less good to say. For example, Hassan always call Collin as heretic. Some of readers said that the end of story make them dissapointed.

There are some reason why the writer is interest to study about this novel. *An Abundance of Katherines* novel is written in two character. Collin Singleton and Hassan. These two characters has a different behaviour. Collin that called the child prodigy who always felt desperate because of dumped by woman. And his friend, Hassan is a man who always happy because he never dating. Their smart dialogue in the novel made interested.

The second reason is the writer is interested with their interreligious friendship. In the novel Collin Singleton is a half-Jewish and his friend, Hassan is Moslem. They often claim that they are not terrorist. The interaction between Collin and Hassan make me love. Although they have different beliefs, even jokes that were raised by Hassan is very suggestive. Like Hassan always wanted to make Collin moved religion in Moslem and he always called Collin as a heretic. But they remain close and love each other. whereas to my knowledge, someone depends on a friend's religion. So the interreligious friendship have rarely encountered for me. Especially between Moslem and Jewish. May be there is in America. So it is ordinary when make a friend with different beliefs.

Based on the illustration above, the writer is interested to analyze this novel by using sociological approach that entitled **Interreligious Friendship Reflected in John Green's *An Abundance of Katherines* Novel (2006): A sociological Approach.**

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the problems are formulated as follow:

1. What indicators of interreligious friendship are found in the novel?
2. How is interreligious friendship portrayed in the novel?
3. Why did the author adress interreligious friendship in the novel?

C. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with problem statement above, the writer has the following objectives of the study as folllows:

1. To describe the indicators of interreligious friendship are found in the novel *An Abundance of Katherines*.
2. To describe how is interreligious friendship portrayed in the novel *An Abundance of Katherines*.

3. To reveal why the author addressed interreligious friendship in the novel *An Abundance of Katherines*.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing interreligious friendship in John Green's *An Abundance of Katherines* novel (2006) on Sociological Approach.

E. Benefits/Advantages

From this study, it is expected that the result of this study can give advantages for the following elements, namely:

1. Theoretically

It is expected that this study will give supportive information about the novel *An Abundance of Katherines* and contribution to expand of knowledge to other studies especially student in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

2. Practically

This study will give benefits for students of English Department to improve their reading skill and facilitate them in analyzing *An Abundance of Katherines* novel by using sociological approach.

F. Paper Organization

As a guidance of writing paper, the writer will convey its chapters as follows:

Chapter I presents introduction, it explains background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and paper organization.

Chapter II is review of related literature, which elaborates of underlying theory and previous study.

Chapter III is research method, which presents of type of the study, object of the study, type of data and data source, method of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is Sociological Analysis of John Green's novel *An Abundance of Katherines*.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion.